

## MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

To my friends and neighbors in the Medfield Community:

One of the proudest traditions of New England life, and one of the most effective instruments for self-government, is the open town meeting. In Medfield, friends and neighbors have been gathering in this format for over 360 years to address the important issues of the day and to provide for the financial and governmental operations of our town. In 2013, we consider a significant capital investment in a new public works facility, a budget in excess of fifty million dollars, and a series of important initiatives in the areas of zoning, personnel, and municipal services.

It is my pleasure, as your Town Moderator, to invite you to attend our Annual Town Meeting which will be held on Monday evening April 29, 2013 at 7:30pm at the Amos Clark Kingsbury High School gymnasium.

I sincerely believe we have a special place to call our home. We care about Medfield and we share a common purpose. We understand it takes hard work, active communication, and a deep commitment by many to building an extraordinary community to live, to work, and to raise families. The Annual Town Meeting, even with all of its imperfections, is a night when we gather to speak with one another and, year over year, to demonstrate our pledge to superior education, safe streets and homes, a library of knowledge, the well-being of the young and the old, quality municipal services, the advancement of local commerce, and the value of open space and recreation.

Come be a part of Medfield's legislative body. Our collective determinations become the laws, regulations, and budgets of Medfield. Few of us will go to Congress in Washington or the legislature on Beacon Hill, but all of us have an opportunity to be a member of a legislative body voting to enact laws and regulations which govern our municipal life and times. And it is typically just one evening per year.

As for procedures, the law of the Commonwealth provides: "The moderator shall preside and regulate the proceedings, decide all questions of order, and make public declaration of all votes." At the beginning of our meeting on the 29th, I will describe the guidelines for our dialogue and deliberations. My guidance will come from the traditional blend of fairness, prudence, expedience, respectful communication, and

consideration of the best interests of the community. As usual, there is a constant need to balance “due consideration” with “due expedience” which will require a reasonable time limitation on certain discussions.

I ask that you review this *Report on the 2013 Warrant* – and please bring your copy with you to the Town Meeting as a “scorecard” as we address the warrant articles and the town’s operating budget. I look forward to seeing you on Monday evening, April 29, 2013 at the high school. Come early, before the meeting begins at 7:30pm -- we will be entertained by some of the town’s most talented and dedicated young musicians from the Medfield High School Orchestra.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott F. McDermott  
Town Moderator